

THEME: The Contemplative Society,
Literature.

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Philadelphia
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Edgar Allen Poe House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Edgar Allen Poe House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 530 - 532 North Seventh Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 3	
STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE: 42	COUNTY: Philadelphia	CODE: 101

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of Philadelphia			
STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall			
CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia		STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE: 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Department of Records			
STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall			
CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia		STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: N.R. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress / Annex			
STREET AND NUMBER: Division of Prints and Photographs			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington		STATE: D.C.	CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
Pennsylvania

COUNTY:
Philadelphia

ENTRY NUMBER

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edgar Allen Poe House is three stories tall, one room deep, and two rooms wide. It is made of red brick, with white trim and has a pitched roof, and a central chimney. Formerly freestanding, the house is now enclosed on its north and east sides by a mid-19th century townhouse which faces on to N. 7th Street. The interior of the house is characterized by its simplicity. A narrow walled-in stairway separates each floor into two rooms which are outfitted with period pieces, none of which are associated with Poe. A portion of the original garden exists on the west end of the house. Today, the house is maintained by the Free Library of Philadelphia as it might have been in Poe's time, with a small museum on the first floor of the later house. A lawn extends from the front of the house south to Spring Garden Street, and behind the house north to Green Street.

Boundaries of the Edgar Allen Poe House

Beginning at the NW corner of Spring Garden and N. Seventh Streets, proceed N along the eastern boundary of the lot approximately 250' to the SW intersection of Green and N. Seventh Streets, thence W approximately 70' to the NW corner of the property, thence S approximately 250' to the SW corner of the property, thence E approximately 70' to the point of origin. These boundaries enclose the Poe House and garden, as well as the landscaped ground to the north and south of the house in an effort to indicate the suburban appearance of the land in the time of Poe's occupancy in view of the current state of urbanization. The later house constitutes an intrusion and do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1842-1844

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Of the small brick cottage at 530 North Seventh Street in Philadelphia Hervey Allen, Edgar Allen Poe's outstanding biographer has stated: "No other house occupied by the poet during his manhood is so closely related with the intimate joys and tragedies of Poe's life as this brick cottage. It was under its roof that the last vestiges of his prosperity disappeared and that the swift descent into the whirlpool of despair took on an accelerated motion."¹ The house today is surrounded by commercial developments and public housing units of downtown Philadelphia, whereas during Poe's residence, 1842-44 the Spring Garden neighborhood was suburban. However the house is maintained in good condition, is open to the public, and is furnished with period pieces.

History

Edgar Allen Poe lived in Philadelphia from 1838 until the spring of 1844, dwelling for the last two years at the cottage at Brandywine and North Seventh Streets. The years in Philadelphia saw the publication of some of Poe's greatest tales, and it was during this period that he perfected the short mystery story into the distinctive prose form which continues to characterize this mode of fiction. Among the products of the Philadelphia years were: "The Fall of the House of Usher," "William Wilson," "The Gold Bug," "The Mystery of Marie Roget," "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," and "The Raven," the latter four of which were produced while living at North Seventh Street. Poe was employed at this time largely in contributing to various magazines. From 1841 to 1842 he served as literary editor on Graham's Lady's and Gentleman's Magazine which at that time grew to be the most popular magazine in America, and Poe's influence and fame increased as well. In 1841 however, Poe parted from Graham's, and attempted to found a magazine of his own. The magazine never materialized and in the spring of 1844, Poe left Philadelphia for New York, with his ailing wife, and his aunt and mother-in-law, and only \$4.50 in his pocket.

1

Hervey Allen, Israfel, The Life and Times of Edgar Allen Poe,
2 vols. (New York, 1926).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hervey Allen, Israfel; The Life and Times of Edgar Allen Poe, 2 vols., (New York, 1926).

Anthony J. Frayne, The Rose-Covered Cottage, (Philadelphia, 1934).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		UTM	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .8

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Richard E. Greenwood, Survey Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION
Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE
8/8/74

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street NW

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE
D.C.

CODE
11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Designated: Dec. 27, 1962 date

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Boundary Certified: Cornelius Keene 7-24-75 date

Chief, Hist. & Arch. Div.

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

Director, OAHF date

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Edgar Allen Poe House
Philadelphia Quad. Pa.-N.J. USGS 7.5'
18.487160.4423310

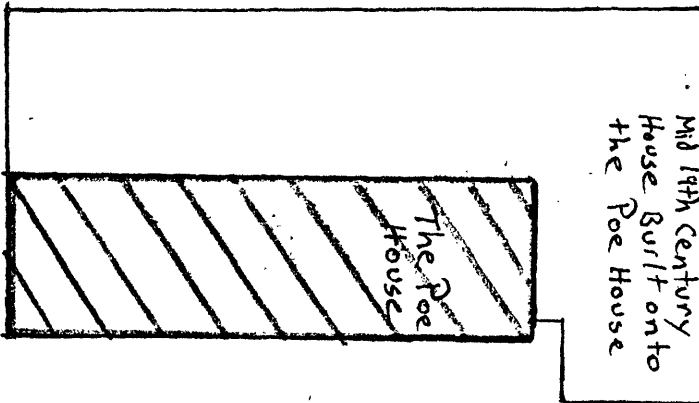
UTM

Green Street

N. Seventh Street



Mid 19th Century
House Built onto
the Poe House



Springgarden Street